

Claims:

1. A method of determining the mdm2-dependent growth activity of a cell, wherein the cell comprises an introduced nucleic acid encoding and expressing an mdm2 protein, the method comprising introducing one or more vectors for expressing a p53 polypeptide or fragment thereof into the cell, and measuring the growth of the cell, whereby a p53 polypeptide or fragment and exhibiting a reduced cell growth level compared to a control is capable of inhibiting a transforming property of mdm2.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid encoding mdm2 comprises the sequence encoding from amino acid 1 to amino acid 134 of SEQ ID NO.: 1.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a human cell.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a tumor cell.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a saos-2 cell.

6. A method of detecting protein-protein interaction with a mdm2 protein, comprising expressing a mdm2 protein in a mammalian cell from an introduced nucleic acid encoding an mdm2 protein, expressing in the cell a cell cycle regulatory protein from an introduced nucleic acid encoding it, and comparing the cell growth or proliferation with and without the expressed mdm2 protein, whereby a change in cell growth or proliferation is indicative of binding to mdm2.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid encoding mdm2 comprises the sequence encoding from amino acid 1 to amino acid 134 of SEQ ID NO.: 1.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the cell is a human cell.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the cell is a tumor cell.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the cell is a saos-2 cell.